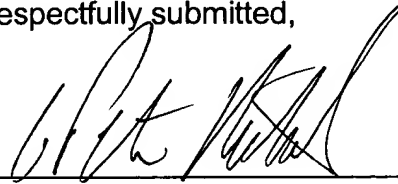


REMARKS

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 by virtue of the use of the term "derivatives" and "analog". Claim 17 has been amended to remove those terms. In addition, claims 16 and 17 now specify that the grafting entity can be 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate or poly (ethylene glycol) methacrylate.

The amendments put all the claims in condition to be allowed. Therefore, the Applicant requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Peter Nichols', is written over a horizontal line.

G. Peter Nichols
Registration No. 34,401

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